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NPIC/D-157/70

21 MAY 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, CIA Historical Staff

SUBJECT : Status of Work on NPIC History

1. Since the 1 May deadline for completing the first section of the main NPIC narrative history - from the establishment of the function to the first U-2 inputs - has come and gone, I am submitting the following accounting of where the work now stands. I hope this will serve as a basis not only for judging the merit of what has been accomplished, but also, if deemed necessary, for providing further guidance concerning trade-offs in scope or quality that may be desirable to meet deadlines.

2. Enclosed is a first draft of Chapter I. Exclusive of changes that may be indicated when it is criticized, I feel that this draft is quite firm. I have, therefore, had it typed according to specifications in the Historical Staff Style Manual. First drafts of subsequent chapters judged by me to be ready for serious scrutiny will be submitted in this form, unless I am advised to the contrary.

3. I am also enclosing what I consider something short of a firm draft of Chapter II (see attached revised outline). I have not yet had this typed in approved form because I believe it will undergo some revision as I continue with my interviews. I enclose it to show that I have limited additional material close to first-draft form. I should emphasize that none of these draft materials has the formal approval of the Director, NPIC.

4. I have already interviewed [redacted] and would like to talk to [redacted] [redacted] On 12 May, I received permission from Security to approach these two former employees. I also must talk to [redacted] and Arthur Lundahl. There is no problem with the latter, but I am trying to finish the Cuban Crisis interviews with him and [redacted] before diverting his attention to the early years. Though I have already formulated questions for all those to be interviewed for Chapter II, I need to anticipate questions I would like to ask on Chapters III and IV before involving [redacted]

5. Since I saw you in February, I spent many days at the Records Center screening and selecting items of significance for all the years when D/GP was part of ORR, i.e., up to August 1958. I also spent lesser amounts of time in OBGI sharing certain materials they had withdrawn from the Records Center for work on their office history. I now feel that I have reached a

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point of diminishing returns in my general search, and, henceforth, plan only to look for specific items needed to fill the gaps.

6. I spent four days in March going through an old CIA/IAS file before records in it were retired to the Records Center. Though I regarded the diversion of effort unwelcome at the time, I thought it best to take the opportunity to do so while the materials were still in [redacted]. This file covered PI activities in early NPIC years, approximately from 1961 to 1965.

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7. Working with [redacted], taped four sessions with Arthur Lundahl on the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. I will soon have transcripts of the last two to send you. These tapes, which record the Director's recollections of what many consider the most significant series of events in the history of the Center, are superb. They will, I am sure, be extremely valuable in the years to come. Included are interesting details available nowhere else. I wish you could find the time to listen to them.

8. The obvious question is: "If not now, when will the first four chapters be finished?" I would say that Chapter II can be firmed up in first-draft form by the end of the first week in June, if I succeed in arranging an interview with [redacted] in the next two weeks. (Several attempts to reach him during the last few days have been unsuccessful.) Estimates on when Chapters III and IV might be finished are more difficult to make. I think each would take a minimum of eight weeks. I have administrative records pretty well in hand, but I have done virtually nothing with the products and their significance. These materials will be easier to obtain than those for the early period, and more people are available for interviewing. If I succeed in working out a satisfactory means for identifying the really significant products and accomplishments, it will greatly enhance the effectiveness of my work, and, accordingly, the speed with which these chapters can be finished.

9. This, then, is the status of work as of this date. If you have any fundamental changes to suggest in approach or in content, perhaps it would be well to let me know as soon as possible. Until I hear otherwise, I shall proceed on the course outlined above. Also, I shall forward to you the first draft of each chapter as soon as I get it firmed up and typed in approved form. Though I doubt the feasibility of your making any detailed comments until you have the first four chapters together, I think

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it desirable that you see each chapter as it is done so you have tangible evidence of the nature and speed of progress. You need not worry about putting the bits and pieces together; I can provide a complete copy of the whole package when the draft on Chapter IV is completed.



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Historical Officer
National Photographic Interpretation Center

Attachments:

Revised Outline of pre-WTA NPIC History
First Draft of Chapter I
Chapter II (Tentative, pending completion of interviews).

cc: Deputy Chief, CIA Historical Staff

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